United Nations A/HRC/36/9

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 July 2017

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Thirty-sixth session
11-29 September 2017
Agenda item 6
Universal periodic review

Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

* The annex is being issued without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

GE.17-11930(E)

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-seventh session from 1 to 12 May 2017. The review of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was held at the 7th meeting, on 4 May 2017. The delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was headed by the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, Sir Oliver Heald. At its 14th meeting, held on 9 May 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Albania, Ethiopia and Mongolia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/GBR/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/GBR/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/GBR/3 and Corr.1).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Czechia, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States of America was transmitted to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland confirmed that it represented the United Kingdom, the Crown dependencies and the British Overseas Territories.

6. With regard to the decision to leave the European Union, or "Brexit", it noted that the Government had published a white paper on 30 March 2017, on its approach to converting existing European Union law into domestic law on the day that the United Kingdom left the European Union. The Government had also made clear that it had no plans to withdraw from the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights). The delegation stated that it was clear that rights and liberties had been protected in United Kingdom law long before the Human Rights Act had been passed in 1998 and they would continue to be protected in the future.

7. It indicated that progress had been made since its last universal periodic review in 2012, in several areas. The delegation reaffirmed the commitment of the United Kingdom to human rights.

8. Regarding the third cycle of the universal period review, the delegation emphasized that it hoped to make constructive recommendations on modern slavery, a global problem.

9. The delegation stated that in developing its national report, the Government and also the devolved administrations had consulted with civil society and the national human rights institutions and the dialogue had been very constructive. The Government had also

reviewed all the recommendations from 2012 and had updated the State's position to bring its categorization into line with the Human Rights Council's accepted classification of either "supported" or "noted".

10. Responding to advance questions, the delegation indicated that proposals to make abortion available to women carrying a fetus with a fatal abnormality had been presented to the Northern Ireland Assembly in 2016 but the measure had been defeated; it was anticipated that work on reform of the law would continue after the election and the formation of a new Northern Ireland Executive. Any legislative reform would, however, be subject to the will of the Northern Ireland Assembly. Regarding the establishment of a historical investigations unit, it indicated that the Government would continue to work with Northern Ireland parties, victims' groups and other stakeholders to seek a resolution that would allow the Stormont House Agreement bodies to be established.

11. On corporal punishment, the Government had stated that it did not condone any violence towards children and had clear laws to deal with it, and that the "reasonable chastisement" defence could not be used when someone was charged with assault causing actual or grievous bodily harm, or with child cruelty.

12. Regarding children in the armed forces, the Government saw the recruitment of individuals between the ages of 16 and 18 as offering a range of benefits to the individual, and stressed that personnel under the age of 18 were not deployed on any operation outside the United Kingdom except where the operation did not involve personnel becoming engaged in, or exposed to, hostilities.

13. The delegation stated that its counter-terrorism legislation and measures complied with international human rights obligations and were closely scrutinized by the United Kingdom Parliament.

14. Regarding hate crime, the State had a strong legislative framework to tackle it, including criminal offences and the Hate Crime Action Plan 2016.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

15. During the interactive dialogue, 94 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

16. Georgia acknowledged progress achieved in various areas related to children's rights, including the adoption of a number of laws and the strengthening of policy measures.

17. Germany particularly welcomed the lively public discourse on ongoing challenges, and the active participation of civil society in the universal periodic review process.

18. Ghana encouraged the Government to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

19. Greece welcomed in particular the noteworthy efforts to tackle human trafficking and modern-day slavery.

20. Guatemala was concerned about the reports that Gypsies, Travellers and the Roma continued to be discriminated against to a large extent and had access to fewer opportunities.

21. Haiti wished the Government and its people a satisfactory outcome during the Brexit negotiations.

22. Sierra Leone commended the efforts to tackle domestic violence effectively through the Modern Slavery Act and the Child Trafficking Protection Fund and expressed its thanks for the assistance provided during the Ebola crisis.

23. Hungary welcomed the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the Hate Crime Action Plan 2016.

24. Iceland welcomed the Hate Crime Action Plan and the low gender pay gap.

25. India encouraged the continuation of efforts for intercultural understanding and curbing of the negative stereotyping of minorities, and expressed concern regarding the scrapping of the Human Rights Act 1998.

26. Indonesia commended improvements in women's rights, including reducing domestic violence, but was alarmed at the implementation of the Terrorism Act.

27. The Islamic Republic of Iran was concerned at the continued discrimination against minorities, women of black origin and migrant domestic workers, and at the new counter-terrorism measures.

28. Iraq welcomed the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the Hate Crime Action Plan. It noted the non-incorporation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination into domestic law.

29. Ireland regretted that the United Kingdom had changed its position on some recommendations from the previous review. It welcomed the commitment to establish the comprehensive institutional framework to address the legacy of the troubles in Northern Ireland.

30. Israel commended the United Kingdom for assigning due importance to the fight against hate crimes and for undertaking to find the right balance between the fight against terror and respect for human rights.

31. Italy took note of the human rights framework and welcomed the measures adopted since the previous review.

32. Japan noted the increase in hate crimes since the June 2016 referendum on leaving the European Union. It commended the monitoring of detention facilities through the national preventive mechanism.

33. Kazakhstan expressed hope that the British bill of rights would not weaken the existing framework and welcomed efforts to combat violence against women, trafficking and slavery.

34. Kenya requested the United Kingdom to ensure that the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child would be integrated into national legislation and policies.

35. Kyrgyzstan noted that race remained the most commonly recorded motivation for hate crimes, and that following the referendum on European Union membership there had been an increase in online hate crime and in anti-migrant attacks.

36. Armenia commended the commitment by the United Kingdom to advance gender equality and combat violence against women, and welcomed measures to tackle discrimination.

37. Libya appreciated the constructive participation in the review and commended the efforts of the United Kingdom to improve its human rights record.

38. Liechtenstein welcomed the measures taken to promote positive parenting and alternative forms of discipline. It noted that the United Kingdom was taking measures to reform privacy and surveillance laws.

39. Malaysia noted progress in addressing domestic violence and support for victims of human trafficking under the Modern Slavery Act 2015. It noted that racially aggravated crime was on the increase.

40. Maldives noted the commitment by the United Kingdom on measures taken by the Government to implement previous universal periodic review recommendations.

41. Mauritius stated that the United Kingdom's denial of the right of Mauritians, particularly those of Chagossian origin, to resettle in the Chagos Archipelago which forms part of the Mauritian territory constituted a human rights violation. Mauritius reiterated its non-recognition of the so-called "British Indian Ocean Territory".

42. Mexico expressed concern about the change in the position of the United Kingdom with respect to some of the recommendations made by Mexico.

43. Mongolia noted the commitment to improve the well-being of children in disadvantaged situations, increased social welfare for persons with disabilities, and measures to combat domestic violence. It welcomed the Hate Crime Action Plan.

44. Montenegro welcomed progress in combating domestic violence. It urged empowering women towards equal participation, and enhancing gender policies, particularly in respect of black women, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender women, and women with disabilities.

45. The delegation stated that the United Kingdom was clear about its sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory and that no international tribunal had ever called its sovereignty into doubt. The Government strongly refuted Mauritius' claim that the Archipelago which the United Kingdom administers as the British Indian Ocean Territory is part of Mauritius and the United Kingdom expressed disappointment that Mauritius was requesting a referral by the General Assembly to the International Court of Justice, which the United Kingdom believes is an inappropriate use of the International Court of Justice advisory mechanism. The United Kingdom remained committed to good faith bilateral discussions and was disappointed that Mauritius was not giving serious consideration to the two proposals that the United Kingdom had put forward.

46. The delegation indicated that the Human Rights Act made most of the rights contained in the European Convention on Human Rights directly enforceable in United Kingdom courts. The Equality Act, which prohibited direct and indirect discrimination, had introduced a public sector equality duty.

47. Regarding concerns about the bill of rights proposals, the Government remained committed to reforming the human rights framework, and that would be considered once the arrangements for Brexit were known. The Government stated that it was willing to hear proposals for a Northern Ireland-specific bill of rights if sufficient consensus could be reached.

48. Regarding the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the United Kingdom considered that its current domestic framework already included prevention of arbitrary arrest and prohibition of torture and degrading treatment, and held the security and intelligence agencies to account, therefore the Government was unclear about the benefits of ratifying the Convention. It also considered that the rights of migrant workers were already protected in its domestic legislation and therefore the Government was unclear about the benefit of ratifying the Convention on Migrant Workers.

49. The delegation stated that because the United Kingdom had no indigenous or tribal people, as defined in the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), in its territory or in the Crown dependencies or Overseas Territories, the obligations of that Convention would not have a practical effect in the United Kingdom. It also explained that the benefits of the individual communications procedures remained unclear, as people in the United Kingdom had access to the application process to the European Court of Human Rights.

50. The delegation indicated that the United Kingdom was keeping under review all reservations on United Nations treaties. It also explained that the United Nations human rights treaties had not been incorporated into domestic law but that the treaties did not require States parties to do so. The United Kingdom had put in place a combination of policies and legislation to give effect to the United Nations treaties that it had ratified. The United Kingdom had signed the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) in 2012 and remained committed to ratifying it. It remained firmly committed to tackling violence against women and girls, including through new laws to ensure that perpetrators faced consequences for their actions and by increasing resources for victims.

51. Mozambique commended the implementation of recommendations from previous universal periodic review cycles which had led to the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act, and the launching of the Hate Crime Action Plan.

52. Myanmar commended efforts to improve the human rights of women and children. It urged amending the anti-abortion law in Northern Ireland, as complaints had increased.

53. Namibia commended the United Kingdom for having increased the fight against hatred, especially racism, by launching the new Hate Crime Action Plan in 2016.

54. Nepal noted measures to combat violence against women, discrimination, hate crime and modern-day slavery. It was encouraged by the commitment to official development assistance.

55. The Netherlands noted measures taken to tackle modern slavery. It encouraged safeguarding access to justice. Improved reporting mechanisms and a review of the measures taken would contribute to a better understanding of the scale and severity of hate crimes.

56. Nigeria was encouraged by the domestic human rights framework and acknowledged the launching of the Hate Crime Action Plan.

57. Pakistan noted with concern that racial discrimination, religious profiling and hate crimes against vulnerable groups were on the rise and encouraged the United Kingdom to tackle hate crime.

58. Panama underscored the efforts made by the United Kingdom to incorporate the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights into national legislation.

59. Paraguay welcomed human rights advances, in a time of changes and renewal for the United Kingdom.

60. Peru highlighted the introduction of a number of crimes, including criminal harassment, forced marriage, and omission to protect against female genital mutilation.

61. The Philippines expressed concern about the gender pay gap and about the reluctance to subscribe to multilateral obligations on migrants and refugees. It requested to be enlightened about the "safe return review" for refugees.

62. Portugal commended the measures introduced into the Modern Slavery Act 2015, following recommendations from the previous review.

63. The Republic of Korea underscored the State's leadership regarding human rights challenges such as modern forms of slavery, hate crime and sexual discrimination.

64. Romania appreciated the measures taken following the recommendations from the second cycle review.

65. The Russian Federation regretted that racial hate crimes were the most spreading ones, and expressed concern about the prosecution of dissent and the low level of prosecution of crimes connected with human trafficking.

66. Rwanda asked whether the Government had undertaken an assessment of potential risk factors for atrocity crimes, with a view to their prevention.

67. Serbia was concerned over the lack of safety for inmates and overcrowding in prisons, and asked whether the United Kingdom was considering raising the minimum age of criminal liability and about achieving a sustainable reduction in the number of children in detention.

68. Honduras shared the concerns with respect to the detention of asylum seekers and the lack of an explicit regulation for the right to family reunification for unaccompanied minors.

69. Singapore commended the United Kingdom for its holistic efforts to combat hate crime, and also for tackling poverty and delivering social justice through various measures.

70. Slovakia called for serious consideration of the rights of the child in the policymaking process. Children should be able to have recourse to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

71. Slovenia commended the United Kingdom for adopting the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and appreciated the measures to address gender-based discrimination and violence. There was room for improvement in the juvenile justice system.

72. Spain welcomed the Modern Slavery Act 2015 although there were still challenges in its implementation, and expressed concern about increases in hate crimes and hate speech.

73. Sri Lanka underscored proactive measures in countering terrorism and asked the United Kingdom about the challenges in implementing those measures.

74. The State of Palestine commended measures to ensure that its antiterrorism measures complied with its human rights obligations, and welcomed the national action plan on business and human rights.

75. Sudan commended the launching of the new Hate Crime Action Plan, and was concerned about racial discrimination against people of African descent.

76. Sweden was concerned that the United Kingdom had not acted on recommendations concerning its policy regarding child protection, and additionally that the Abortion Act did not apply in Northern Ireland.

77. Switzerland stated that the Government was finding it difficult to provide the necessary means to the Historical Investigations Unit to allow it to carry out its mission.

78. The Syrian Arab Republic recalled the principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of land by force and the right to self-determination as enshrined in both international human rights covenants and the United Nations Charter.

79. Thailand was concerned with hate-related crimes motivated by racial and xenophobic discrimination, and expressed concern about the proposal for repeal of the Human Rights Act 1998.

80. Timor-Leste commended the Hate Crime Action Plan 2016, and welcomed the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

81. Tunisia commended the United Kingdom's inter-State cooperation to strengthen human rights nationally and internationally. It welcomed progress in combating hate speech and modern slavery.

82. Turkey welcomed the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act and the launching of the Hate Crime Action Plan. It encouraged further improvement of the working conditions of migrants.

83. Uganda noted that domestic violence remained the most pervasive form of violence against women and stated that this required a more consistent and coherent human rights-based approach.

84. Ukraine welcomed the adoption of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the establishment of a new task force to accelerate progress in tackling slavery.

85. The delegation indicated that it had introduced the Modern Slavery Act to tackle modern slavery, and the anti-slavery strategy of 2014. It was piloting the recommendation of the November 2014 review of the National Referral Mechanism, and highlighted a number of efforts against human trafficking, modern slavery and exploitation, including legal and institutional measures by the devolved administrations.

86. The delegation indicated that the arrangement on child asylum seekers was fully compatible with international standards, and the best interest of the child was a primary consideration in every decision taken about him or her. The strict limit of 24 hours' detention for an unaccompanied child liable for removal from the United Kingdom had been introduced in 2014.

87. The delegation emphasized that the United Kingdom ensured that sufficient support remained available to cover the needs of asylum seekers and their children. Fully furnished equipped accommodation with all utilities was provided to asylum seekers and their families who would otherwise be destitute, and all asylum seekers had access to health care and schooling for their children. The delegation pointed out that there was no statutory time limit on detention of asylum seekers in the United Kingdom but that it was not possible to detain them indefinitely, based on the presumption of liberty and the principle that detention was a last resort.

88. The delegation recognized that overseas domestic workers were a potentially vulnerable group, and stated that policies had been adjusted to have a better balance between enabling the workers to escape abuse and enabling them to report abuses so that abusers could be identified.

89. The delegation indicated that the United Kingdom had overseen a major programme of reform of stop and search, in order to ensure that it was fair, effective and transparent.

90. Regarding the minimum age of criminal responsibility, the Government believed that children aged 10 were able to differentiate between right and wrong, and they should be held accountable for their actions, although it noted that prosecution was not always appropriate for youth offending. In Scotland, the minimum age would be raised to 12, with safeguards.

91. Young offenders who were convicted of the most serious crimes could receive a sentence of detention for life, but that did not mean that they would automatically be in custody for life, as the person could be released on licence.

92. The Government continued to consider that its counter-terrorism legislation and measures complied with its international human rights obligations, and terrorism legislation was regularly reviewed by an independent reviewer.

93. The delegation stated that the United Kingdom was committed to improving safety and decreasing violence in prisons and referred to a number of measures taken.

94. On hate crime, the United Kingdom provided a strong legal framework to convict those who did incite hatred, but it also tried to protect freedom of speech. The Government had established two cross-party all-parliamentary groups, one focusing on anti-Semitism and one on anti-Muslim hatred, to help understand the issue better. The Government had recently launched its Hate Crime Action Plan 2016 — a comprehensive plan to which the Government was committed. Measures had also been taken in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

95. The United States of America expressed concern about unsafe and deteriorating prisons and continued reports of societal discrimination against minority groups.

96. Uruguay welcomed advances in combating domestic violence and encouraged the United Kingdom to strengthen efforts to eradicate it.

97. Noting the findings of several United Nations treaty bodies and non-governmental organizations, Uzbekistan made recommendations.

98. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela encouraged the establishment of a human rights national plan of action that included measures to implement United Nations mechanisms' recommendations.

99. Albania applauded the commitment by the United Kingdom to maintaining its strong global role in relation to human rights.

100. Algeria welcomed the strengthening of the legal framework on contemporary forms of slavery and racism.

101. Andorra encouraged the United Kingdom to pursue its efforts to promote and protect children's rights.

102. Angola welcomed the strategy to combat domestic violence and the modernization of the prison system.

103. Argentina welcomed the adoption of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

104. Lebanon appreciated the continued engagement of the United Kingdom abroad and cooperation with the United Nations to enhance human rights despite the decision taken on Brexit in June 2016.

105. Australia commended the leadership on human trafficking and modern slavery, and acknowledged the investigations of deaths in Northern Ireland, prevention of violence against women and girls and creation of domestic violence protection orders.

106. Bahrain commended the launching of the action plan to combat hate crime and the measures taken to combat human trafficking, noting difficulties of victims in accessing medical services and legal assistance.

107. Bangladesh reminded the State of its moral responsibility resulting from the colonial past to ensure that its immigration policies remained transparent, humane and accessible, and was concerned about escalating racial profiling, xenophobia and hate crimes.

108. Belarus regretted that the Government had not given ample attention to some of the recommendations from the previous cycles.

109. Bosnia and Herzegovina recognized the commitment of the United Kingdom to the universal periodic review, its efforts to promote equality and the new Hate Crime Action Plan.

110. Botswana noted concerns by special procedures on the measures taken by the United Kingdom to fight extremism and terrorism and on the draft investigatory powers bill.

111. Brazil believed that despite the challenge imposed by the current migration and refugee crisis, a human rights approach was needed when addressing the issue.

112. Bulgaria commended the efforts in combating violence against women and girls, and noted the roll-out of domestic violence protection orders and the introduction of female genital mutilation protection orders.

113. Canada emphasized the importance of maintaining existing standards and legal protections for human rights, with the United Kingdom preparing to exit the European Union.

114. Chile was concerned about the impact that the exit by the United Kingdom from the European Union would have on its human rights legislative framework.

115. China welcomed human rights progress and noted with concern serious problems of racism and xenophobia against ethnic minorities, while the rights of refugees and migrants had not been guaranteed.

116. Côte d'Ivoire encouraged the Government to strengthen the measures taken to fight all forms of discrimination, and violence against vulnerable groups, and to support and protect victims.

117. Croatia welcomed the steps taken by the United Kingdom regarding the implementation of recommendations from the second universal periodic review.

118. Czechia acknowledged the determination of the United Kingdom to prevent and eradicate modern slavery at both the domestic and international levels.

119. Ecuador was concerned at the frequent cases of hate crimes, the restrictions on granting refugee status and the possible repeal of the Human Rights Act 1998.

120. Egypt was concerned about United Kingdom policies making it a sanctuary for extremists and fertile ground for terrorism, hate crimes and discrimination, and was concerned about policies against migrants.

121. Estonia urged the involvement of all relevant stakeholders when replacing the Human Rights Act 1998 with a British bill, and called for the application of international human rights principles to all under its jurisdiction to be ensured.

122. Finland encouraged the Government to continue working to prevent the growth of intolerance and xenophobia in society and to report on the implementation of the relevant action plan.

123. France welcomed the efforts of the United Kingdom to continuously improve the internal human rights situation.

124. Gabon welcomed the law against violence against women and girls and the establishment of the crimes of forced marriage and non-protection against female genital mutilation.

125. Morocco appreciated the efforts to fight discrimination, in consultation with civil society, the strengthening of laws on racial equality, and measures to combat hate speech and hate crime.

126. Regarding equality and social rights, the delegation stated that the Government of the United Kingdom remained committed to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women. From March 2017, the Government had extended the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to additional British Overseas Territories. The gender pay gap was at its lowest level ever and the measures taken included gender pay gap reporting.

127. Tackling child poverty was a priority for the Government, and it recognized that the root causes were not just financial and that it was necessary to go beyond the safety net provided by welfare. The delegation referred to the Child Poverty Strategy in Northern Ireland, the Fairer Scotland Action Plan and the 2010 Children and Families (Wales) Measure, which would help to tackle child poverty.

128. The delegation referred to announced resources for a package of measures to protect children and young people from sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking, and to crack down on offenders. Measures taken in the devolved administrations were also mentioned.

129. The delegation noted that the United Kingdom had strengthened the powers and level of independence of the Children's Commissioner, making it more accountable to the United Kingdom Parliament and children.

130. Regarding Roma, Gypsies and Travellers, the delegation referred to the existence of established frameworks against racial and other forms of discrimination and hate crime, and pointed to increased resources for housing.

131. On business and human rights, concrete measures had been taken, including through the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the Companies Act 2006 and guidance to specific sectors. The Government had also funded business and human rights projects in other countries. It continued to encourage wide adoption of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

132. The United Kingdom had always been a proud and proactive member of the United Nations. The delegation stated that the country was a confident, strong and dependable partner internationally, committed to maintaining its strong global role in relation to human rights and to complying with its international human rights obligations, which included its active participation in and advocacy of the universal periodic review.

133. The United Kingdom had engaged in the universal periodic review session in a spirit of openness and had listened with interest to the viewpoints and perspectives that had been expressed. It was clear that some of the following themes were of real importance to the Human Rights Council: ensuring the ongoing protection of equality and human rights as the United Kingdom left the European Union; a desire for the Government to focus on strengthening its approach to international treaties; a keen interest in the impact of changes to welfare benefits, particularly in relation to vulnerable people, and also access to justice changes, including legal aid and employment tribunal fees; a desire to see continued monitoring of those changes and also for Government to look at the cumulative impact of such reforms; the continued importance of tackling modern slavery and human trafficking, improving safety in prisons, and issues around immigration detention; and the importance of counter-terrorism measures being human rights-compliant.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

134. **The following recommendations will be examined by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council:**

134.1 **Further consider its position on accepting the right of individual petition to the United Nations beyond the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Mozambique);**

134.2 **Accede to the human rights conventions and protocols to which is not yet party in order to facilitate the harmonization of the national human rights legislation across its territories (Paraguay);**

134.3 **Consider ratifying those international human rights instruments that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has not yet ratified (Uganda);**

134.4 **Step up the process of reviewing the reservations made to the international human rights treaties (Belarus);**

134.5 **Lift the reservation on article 4 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Libya);**

134.6 **Ratify the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines);**

134.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Portugal);**

134.8 **Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Albania) (Chile);**

134.9 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Albania);**

134.10 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Chile);**

134.11 **Ratify the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Panama) (Estonia);**

134.12 **Take necessary steps to allow individual complaints mechanisms under United Nations human rights treaties such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Czechia);**

134.13 **Ratify promptly the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, on a communications procedure (Guatemala);**

134.14 **Consider ratification of the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Romania);**

134.15 **Withdraw reservations from the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Pakistan);**

134.16 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Spain);**

134.17 **Ratify the third optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure as it reinforces and complements national and regional mechanisms (Slovakia);**

134.18 **Consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Georgia);**

134.19 **In order to further strengthen the fulfilment of children's rights, ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Liechtenstein);**

134.20 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Montenegro);**

134.21 **Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Right of the Child on a communications procedure (Croatia);**

134.22 **Withdraw its interpretative declaration to article 1 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and unconditionally forbid children from taking part in hostilities (Czechia);**

134.23 **Ratify promptly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Guatemala);**

134.24 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Kyrgyzstan) (Philippines) (Algeria) (Egypt);**

134.25 **Consider ratifying those international human rights instruments it had not yet ratified, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Nigeria);**

134.26 **Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Sri Lanka);**

134.27 **Accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and stop the practice of arresting immigrants for unspecified periods (Syrian Arab Republic);**

134.28 **Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Turkey);**

134.29 **Continue considering adhering to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families, as previously recommended (Uruguay);**

134.30 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Bangladesh);**

134.31 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Germany) (Panama) (France);**

134.32 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Tunisia);**

134.33 **Sign and accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone);**

134.34 **Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Iraq);**

134.35 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as an expression of its commitment to addressing this issue (Japan);**

134.36 **Consider ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sudan);**

134.37 **Continue considering adhering to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and recognizing the competence of its supervisory body, as previously recommended (Uruguay);**

134.38 **Continue its work on accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

134.39 **Ratify promptly the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention,** 1989 **(No. 169) of the International Labour Organization (Guatemala);**

134.40 **Ratify the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Panama);**

134.41 **Consider ratifying the ILO Domestic Workers Convention,** 2011 **(No. 189) (Uruguay);**

134.42 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (the Lanzarote Convention) (Slovenia);**

134.43 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) (Italy);**

134.44 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Montenegro);**

134.45 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Spain);**

134.46 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Turkey);**

134.47 **Pursue its efforts towards ratification to become a State party to the Istanbul Convention in the near future (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

134.48 **Make the necessary legal, policy and practice-related changes to enable the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and dedicate sufficient resources to central, devolved and local authorities to ensure its effective implementation (Finland);**

134.49 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Andorra);**

134.50 **Ratify the Convention of the Council of Europe on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Bulgaria);**

134.51 **Consider accepting the Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court on the crime of aggression (Andorra);**

134.52 **Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Armenia);**

134.53 **Implement the 1954 Convention on statelessness to ensure that stateless persons in Britain access British nationality (Kenya);**

134.54 **Pursue cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms (Côte d'Ivoire);**

134.55 **Take into consideration the opinion of civil society and its role in supporting the decision-making process, particularly with regard to the implementation of recommendations presented to them during the universal periodic review session, additionally, listen to the British human rights organizations and support their role, in particular, in the light of the interest of the Government in the situation of organizations in other States (Egypt);**

134.56 **Guarantee the applicability of the principles and doctrines of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in its national legislation of the United Kingdom regions (Iraq);**

134.57 **Align its norms to the human rights based approach in light of the new challenges faced (Peru);**

134.58 **Further incorporate the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination into domestic law (Greece);**

134.59 **Establish effective coordination and monitoring structures to ensure Convention on the Rights of the Child implementation across national and local governments (Kazakhstan);**

134.60 **Integrate fully the principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child into its domestic law (Slovakia);**

134.61 **Incorporate the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination into the domestic law to ensure direct and full application of the principles and provisions of the Convention (Uganda);**

134.62 **Ensure that all laws and policies adopted are in conformity with international human rights law and standards, including on the fight against terrorism (Botswana);**

134.63 **Continue to be engaged in open and inclusive public debates on ensuring the most effective domestic implementation of international and regional human rights standards, with full account of universally guaranteed rights and freedoms (Serbia);**

134.64 **Ensure that the principles and provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination are directly and fully applicable under domestic law in all territories of the United Kingdom (Kyrgyzstan);**

134.65 **Speed up the adjustment of national legislation to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, both at State and autonomous regions levels (Chile);**

134.66 **Ensure the inclusion of all stakeholders in the drafting and adoption of the British Bill of Rights, in particular representatives of the poor, minorities and vulnerable groups (Haiti);**

134.67 **Provide reassurance that any proposed British Bill of Rights would complement rather than replace the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights in Northern Ireland law and acknowledging this is a primary matter for the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly — that a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland to reflect the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland should be pursued to provide continuity, clarity and consensus on the legal framework for human rights there (Ireland);**

134.68 **Ensure that the legislative changes, if adopted, keep the same level of human rights protection as provided by the Human Rights Act, as advised by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations treaty bodies (Kazakhstan);**

134.69 **Maintain the legal effects, scope and effectiveness of the Human Rights Act in the adoption of new legislation (Kenya);**

134.70 Ensure that any legislative modification, such as the enactment of the Bill of Rights, maintains the level of protection that the current Human Rights Act guarantees (Mexico);

134.71 Ensure that the proposed new Bill of Rights to replace the Human Rights Act, if adopted, does not remove or weaken any human rights protection granted under the current Act (Namibia);

134.72 Take all necessary steps to prevent the new British Bill of Rights from leading to a decreased level of human rights protection (Portugal);

134.73 Ensure that any possible reform of the 1998 Human Rights Act has no impact on the scope of protection or the access to the remedies under the European Convention on Human Rights (Switzerland);

134.74 Continue its commitment to international human rights obligations and standards and ensure that the new bill of rights is drafted through broad-based consultations and embraces no less protection of human rights (Thailand);

134.75 Make sure that, in case the proposals for a British Bill of Rights are realized, the current level of human rights protection provided by the Human Rights Act of 1998 is maintained and improved (Ukraine);

134.76 Carry out extensive consultations with civil society related to the repeal of the 1998 Human Rights Act. In view of the process of leaving the European Union, ensure that any new legislation aims at strengthening human rights in the entire jurisdictions of the country (Uzbekistan);

134.77 Ensure that changes in the national legislation affecting the Human Rights Act do not result in weakening human rights protection mechanisms in the country (Belarus);

134.78 In the context of the withdrawal from the European Union, ensure that human rights achievements are preserved in the future framework of human rights protection in the United Kingdom and the future status of European citizens residing in the United Kingdom (France);

134.79 Adopt a national action plan on human rights (Sudan);

134.80 Intensify its efforts to provide oversight over British companies operating abroad with regard to any negative impact of their activities on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly in conflict areas, which includes situations of foreign occupation, where there are heightened risks of human rights abuses (State of Palestine);

134.81 Further reinforce measures to combat all forms of discrimination and inequality (Georgia);

134.82 Exert all its efforts, in law and practice, to combat racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia, and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against migrants, and to avoid subjecting asylum seekers and stateless persons to prolonged and/or repeat unlawful detention (Islamic Republic of Iran);

134.83 Ensure equality and non-discrimination in the current legislation through due compliance with measures to fight against prejudices, xenophobia and violence against women and girls (Paraguay);

134.84 Dedicate more resources to fight against negative stereotypes in the media, against the most affected minority groups (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, Gypsies, Muslims, refugees and persons granted asylum) (Spain);

134.85 Tackle advocacy of religious hatred including that which constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence in political discourse and in the media (Malaysia);

134.86 Stop the pressure on mass media, including by closing their bank accounts (Russian Federation);

134.87 Review and strengthen current policies and initiatives to combat societal discrimination against members of racial, religious and ethnic minority groups (United States of America);

134.88 Take further measures to combat racism and xenophobia and incorporate the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination into domestic laws (China);

134.89 Elaborate a general strategy, in consultation with members of the Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities, to ensure a systematic and coherent approach to address the problems that such communities continue to face, including discrimination and stigmatization (Guatemala);

134.90 Ensure that the Government of the United Kingdom takes all necessary steps to prevent all kinds of discrimination directed at minorities in the community namely the Roma community (Indonesia);

134.91 That the State and devolved governments collaborate in the approval of an integration strategy for Gypsies, Travellers and Roma people in all the United Kingdom (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);

134.92 Strengthen and activate existing laws and legislation in the field of combating discrimination and all forms of racism and make further efforts to combat discrimination against Gypsies, nomads and Roma (Lebanon);

134.93 Develop a plan of action to implement the activities of the Decade of People of African Descent, which would, inter alia, address concerns of racial profiling of people of African Descent (Sierra Leone);

134.94 Develop a comprehensive strategy to address inequalities experienced by ethnic minorities (Sierra Leone);

134.95 Take effective measures to address inequalities experienced by ethnic minority groups and combat discrimination (Kazakhstan);

134.96 Adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination measures, to promote equal political, social and economic rights of women of ethnic minorities (Republic of Korea);

134.97 Take effective measures to prevent manifestations of intolerance on the grounds of nationality and race (Russian Federation);

134.98 Take the necessary measures to deepen awareness with regard to minorities and foreigners in order to prevent them from suffering acts of violence and discrimination (Argentina);

134.99 Adopt measures to condemn racist rhetoric and hate speech, and apply specific measures on the integration and inclusion of migrants aimed at the population at large (Guatemala);

134.100 Ensure efficient implementation of the new "Hate Crime Action Plan" in order to reduce racially and religiously aggravated crimes (Israel);

134.101 Continue to implement measures such as promoting cultural understanding toward the eradication of hate crime against social minorities (Japan);

134.102 Take additional serious measures to eliminate race enmity on the ground, which leads to hate crimes (Kyrgyzstan);

134.103 Take appropriate measures against the sharp increase in all hate-related violent crimes especially involving young people (Maldives);

134.104 Improve the systems of identification of potential targets and vulnerable communities, enhance surveillance and implement protection measures to address hate crimes (Maldives);

134.105 Continue to strengthen data collection to better understand the scale and severity of hate crimes, in order to assess the impact of the Hate Crime Action Plan (Netherlands);

134.106 Prosecute perpetrators of hate crimes against vulnerable groups (Pakistan);

134.107 Take steps to curb incitement of hatred by some British tabloid newspapers, in line with the country's obligations under national and international law (Republic of Korea);

134.108 Continue to closely monitor the hate crime and discrimination cases, following the implementation by the United Kingdom Government of the newly launched Hate Crime Action Plan of 2016 (Romania);

134.109 Take measures to curb incitements of hatred in the British mass media, in line with international standards (Russian Federation);

134.110 Continue to refine its policies to counter hate crimes in communities, particularly those motivated by race and religion, and to share its best practices with other Member States (Singapore);

134.111 That the United Kingdom Government, parliamentarians, human rights institutions and civil society organizations continue to work closely together in order to ensure that vulnerable groups such as ethnic and religious minorities, refugees and migrants are better protected against hate speech and hate-related crime and that they are provided with greater certainty and legal protection (Thailand);

134.112 Continue efforts towards combating racism and hate speech against foreigners through disseminating a culture of dialogue and cooperation among religions and civilizations (Tunisia);

134.113 Prepare a report on the impact of the "Hate Crime Action Plan" with the view to assess concrete results (Turkey);

134.114 Take further steps to halt and reverse the increase in the number of violent hate crimes (United States of America);

134.115 Adopt effective measures to combat crimes based on religious hate and facilitate access to justice to minority groups (Angola);

134.116 Redoubling efforts and measures to combat hate crimes and xenophobia (Lebanon);

134.117 Continue working to improve the services given to the victims of discrimination and hatred, especially religious hatred, and continue in raising awareness about this crime (Bahrain);

134.118 Address racial discrimination, xenophobia and hate crimes by further strengthening effective legislative and judicial measures (Bangladesh);

134.119 Conduct a full review of the effectiveness of the 2016 Hate Crime Action Plan, and review approaches by criminal justice agencies under the current legal framework in order to address reports of increasing hate crime in the United Kingdom (Canada);

134.120 Continue strengthening measures to combat prejudices and punish crimes motivated by xenophobia (Chile);

134.121 Effectively guarantee the rights of refugees and migrants and make substantive progress in the fight against hate crime (China);

134.122 **Adopt measures aimed at combating racism and hate crimes, in addition to strengthening and ensuring access to fair and effective mechanisms for reparation for the victims of such violence (Ecuador);**

134.123 **Take effective and quick measures to combat hate speech, Islamophobia, racial aggressive acts that are on the increase in the society, and commit to addressing the long-term consequences (Egypt);**

134.124 **End discrimination against same-sex couples in Northern Ireland by bringing the relevant law into line with other parts of the United Kingdom (Iceland);**

134.125 **Review its Equality Act in relation to gender identity and the rights of intersex persons in the context of rights to health services (Australia);**

134.126 **Adopt a rights-based approach to its forthcoming Emissions Reduction Plan (Maldives);**

134.127 **Enact legislation to ensure accountability on human rights violations and environmental damages resulting from global operations of United Kingdom companies (Philippines);**

134.128 **Review counter-terrorism measures which target individuals or groups based on race, ethnic background or religion, including Muslims or Muslim communities (Malaysia);**

134.129 **Establish an evaluation mechanism of the antiterrorist strategy that takes into account the observations made by special procedures and treaty bodies, and that evaluates its human rights implications (Mexico);**

134.130 **In the context of the fight against terrorism, that the use of force be in line with the United Nations Charter and international human rights law and with due respect for the necessity and proportionality criteria (Peru);**

134.131 **Ensure that the planned counter-extremism bill is in compliance with international law and does not single out certain organizations on the stereotypical assumption, based on general characteristics such as religion and the predominant race of the membership of the organization (State of Palestine);**

134.132 **In the context of the defence of the right to life, carefully assess the transfer of arms to those countries where they are likely to be used for human rights abuses and violations (Peru);**

134.133 **Consider including in its next universal periodic review report information on measures it has taken to analyse potential risk factors of atrocity crimes including through utilizing the United Nations Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes (Rwanda);**

134.134 **Train public officials in human rights, in particular the police and the military, including on the excessive use of force (Ecuador);**

134.135 **Expedite investigation and take action on allegations of complicity of British military personnel in the ill-treatment of civilians and detainees overseas (Kenya);**

134.136 **Enact a complete prohibition of all forms of torture into the 1988 Criminal Justice Act, including removals of so-called "escape clauses" (Republic of Korea);**

134.137 **Adherence to international standards for respect for detainees' rights and the conditions of detention (Egypt);**

134.138 **Adopt a comprehensive national framework to prevent trafficking in women and girls, and allow victims of trafficking to access a fair trial (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

134.139 **Adopt a victim-centred comprehensive national framework against trafficking in persons, especially women and girls (Philippines);**

134.140 **Investigate thoroughly incidents of trafficking in human beings and ensure that the perpetrators are subject to proportionate punishment (Russian Federation);**

134.141 **Reinforce the National Referral Mechanism to identify and assist victims of human trafficking (Spain);**

134.142 **Adopt a comprehensive national framework to combat trafficking in women and girls (Timor-Leste);**

134.143 **Strengthen the national framework to combat human trafficking and ensure adequate support and protection to victims of trafficking (Uganda);**

134.144 **Strengthen national mechanisms to combat human trafficking, specifically of women and girls, and to support and rehabilitate its victims (Lebanon);**

134.145 **Monitor the implementation of the 2015 modern slavery legislation, including its effectiveness in combating trafficking in women and girls (Australia);**

134.146 **Continue strengthening the positive measures taken to combat the crime of trafficking in persons and particularly those measures concerning the protection of child victims (Bahrain);**

134.147 **Continue efforts to fight human trafficking and all forms of slavery (Morocco);**

134.148 **Strengthen the protection of citizens and the right to privacy in the Investigatory Powers Bill of 2016 (Haiti);**

134.149 **Bring all legislation concerning communication surveillance in line with international human rights standards and especially recommends that all communications surveillance requires a test of necessity and proportionality (Liechtenstein);**

134.150 **Ensure that the regulation on surveillance does not violate the right to privacy, intimacy and freedom of expression of its citizens (Paraguay);**

134.151 **Consider the revision of the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 with a view to protecting the right to privacy, including by prohibiting mass surveillance activities and the collection of communications data without warrants (Brazil);**

134.152 **Provide protection to the family as a natural and fundamental unit to the society (Egypt);**

134.153 **Consider aligning its corporate criminal liability regime with international human rights law in order to ensure accountability and effective remedy for victims of serious human rights abuses involving the operations of United Kingdom companies abroad (Namibia);**

134.154 **Ensure the accessibility of appropriate legal aid to safeguard access to justice for all, particularly for the most marginalized groups in society (Netherlands);**

134.155 **Continue to intensify efforts and take necessary measures with a view to carrying out the repatriation of illicit funds and proceeds of corruption to their countries of origin and to ensure cooperation with requesting States (Nigeria);**

134.156 **Increase the necessary resources to the service of the Coroner to allow him to carry out impartial, swift and effective investigations on all the deaths linked to the conflict in Northern Ireland (Switzerland);**

134.157 **Continue negotiations on transitional justice issues and implement transitional justice elements of the Stormont House Agreement (Australia);**

134.158 **Take concrete measures to reduce the current and future prison population, as well as to improve prisoner safety (Serbia);**

134.159 **Initiate a prison reform plan to improve the deteriorating conditions in United Kingdom prisons, including addressing the increase in homicides and assaults (United States of America);**

134.160 **Review current prison safety and conditions and consider developing an action plan to address increases in self-harm and suicide as well as overcrowding in prisons in the United Kingdom (Canada);**

134.161 **Revoke the blanket ban on prisoners' exercise of their right to vote, in order to comply with the rulings of international courts on this matter (Czechia);**

134.162 **Continue its efforts to improve treatment of inmates (Japan);**

134.163 **Ensure the welfare of all segments of society in an inclusive manner, including those of migrants (Nepal);**

134.164 **Provide more targeted social policies to help disadvantaged families, and in particular their children, so as to boost social mobility (Singapore);**

134.165 **Simplify, harmonize and reinforce the current legal norms on equality in favour of those most vulnerable (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

134.166 **Strengthen measures to foster access of vulnerable populations to public services and social and health services (Côte d'Ivoire);**

134.167 **As a follow-up to the recommendations contained in A/HRC/21/9, paras. 110.39 and 110.103, consider along with stakeholders the possibility of a universal basic income to replace the existing social protection system (recommendations 110.39 and 110.103 of the second cycle) (Haiti);**

134.168 **Develop clear national strategies for the eradication of the poverty of about four million children, as indicated in the United Kingdom universal periodic review summary report of the stakeholders' submissions (Syrian Arab Republic);**

134.169 **Further strengthen its 'Equality Act', in particular, to provide better health services to groups in vulnerable situations including migrants (Sri Lanka);**

134.170 **Ensure that the law governing access to abortion in Northern Ireland fully complies with international human rights law, by decriminalizing abortion and ensuring access to abortion in cases of severe and fatal fetal anomalies and where the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest (Iceland);**

134.171 **Take necessary measures to provide reproductive health-care services for women and girls in line with its Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women obligations (Myanmar);**

134.172 **Ensure that the law governing access to abortion in Northern Ireland fully complies with international human rights law, by decriminalizing abortion and ensuring access to abortion in cases of severe and fatal fetal anomalies and where the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest (Sweden);**

134.173 **Encourage the devolved government of Northern Ireland to align its legal framework on sexual and reproductive health and rights, and its reproductive health services, with the rest of the United Kingdom (Canada);**

134.174 **Step up efforts to promote racial equality and social inclusion in the education system in Northern Ireland (Botswana);**

134.175 With regard to the reporting mechanism on the gender pay gap, consider efficient means of following up on the reports made by the employers (Israel);

134.176 Address the problem of discrimination against women, particularly in the labour market, with regard to the gender-based wage gap (Libya);

134.177 Address more effectively entrenched discriminatory practices against women in the political, economic and social spheres, particularly in terms of the gender pay gap and social security (Malaysia);

134.178 Pay priority attention to gender equality and discrimination against women, as well as on the grounds of race and ethnicity, and ensure the application of the principles and provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in the domestic legislation of the country (Uzbekistan);

134.179 Take necessary measures to eliminate discriminatory practices in the labour market with respect to women (Algeria);

134.180 Exert more efforts to combat or to counter violence against women and girls (Libya);

134.181 Adopt national legislation, especially in Northern Ireland, on domestic violence protection, that ensures all cases of domestic violence are thoroughly investigated and that perpetrators are prosecuted (Maldives);

134.182 Ensure a holistic approach to the prevention of violence against women and girls, including harmful practices (Slovenia);

134.183 Combat violence against women and girls, in particular domestic violence (Sudan);

134.184 Continue efforts to combat discrimination on any ground and violence against women and girls (Bosnia and Herzegovina);

134.185 Continue its positive efforts to reduce domestic violence throughout the country (Indonesia);

134.186 Effectively fight violence against women and take substantive measures to combat sexual exploitation and sexual crimes against children (China);

134.187 Step up its efforts in fighting domestic violence and take measures to prevent secondary victimization and the negative impact of domestic violence on children (Czechia);

134.188 Strengthen its legislative framework by including penal sanctions for perpetrators of acts of forced marriage and non-protection against female genital mutilation (Gabon);

134.189 Place children's rights at the centre of climate change adaption and mitigation strategies by mainstreaming child-sensitive risk and vulnerability reduction strategies into its National Adaptation Programme (Maldives);

134.190 Reviewing the laws on immigration in Britain in order to comply with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Syrian Arab Republic);

134.191 Increase efforts to eliminate child poverty and bring domestic legislation in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Hungary);

134.192 Increase government efforts to eradicate child poverty, and in this regard undertake an assessment of the impact of the welfare reform on children from disadvantaged families (Kazakhstan);

134.193 In all devolved administrations, overseas territories and Crown dependencies, prohibit all corporal punishment in the family, including

through the repeal of all legal defences, such as "reasonable chastisement" (Liechtenstein);

134.194 **Ensure that corporal punishment is explicitly prohibited in all schools and educational institutions and all other institutions and forms of alternative care (Liechtenstein);**

134.195 **Prohibit corporal punishment in all settings, including the family (Ireland);**

134.196 **Reconsider its position on the legality of corporal punishment of children (Mongolia);**

134.197 **Ban corporal punishment of children to ensure the full protection and freedom from violence for all children (Sweden);**

134.198 **Consider prohibiting corporal punishment against children and ensure that it is explicitly prohibited in all schools and educational institutions, and all other institutions and forms of alternative care (Croatia);**

134.199 **Take further actions in protecting the rights of the child by prohibiting all corporal punishment of children as required by the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Estonia);**

134.200 **Develop and implement comprehensive multisectoral strategies on child exploitation and abuse (Timor-Leste);**

134.201 **Complete the investigation on numerous cases of sexual violence against children perpetrated by the high-level officials and bring the perpetrators to justice (Russian Federation);**

134.202 **Take more measures to fight against sexual exploitation of children and violence against them (Algeria);**

134.203 **Abolish the life sentence for minors, in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Paraguay);**

134.204 **Consider abolishing the mandatory imposition of life imprisonment for offences committed by children under the age of 18 (Greece);**

134.205 **Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in accordance with acceptable international standards and abolish the mandatory imposition of life imprisonment for offences committed by children under the age of 18 (Albania);**

134.206 **Consider revising the minimum age of criminal responsibility (Peru);**

134.207 **In line with the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, consider the possibility of increasing the age of criminal responsibility in line with accepted international standards (Belarus);**

134.208 **Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in accordance with acceptable international standards (Bulgaria);**

134.209 **Implement measures in support of enhanced participation of people with disabilities in the workforce (Israel);**

134.210 **Enable indigenous peoples in the territories they occupy to exercise their right to self-determination, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations (Syrian Arab Republic);**

134.211 **Respect the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations (Syrian Arab Republic);**

134.212 **Stop the forced evictions of indigenous peoples in the territories under occupation (Syrian Arab Republic);**

134.213 **Review the 2016 Immigration Act in order to ensure its compatibility with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Honduras);**

134.214 **Develop social integration policies, especially for migrants and refugees (Lebanon);**

134.215 **Take steps to revise the legislation on immigration by introducing time limits for the detention of migrants and asylum seekers, as well as considering revising the changes introduced to visas for foreign spouses based on income criteria (Brazil);**

134.216 **Continue and strengthen the promotion of the rights of migrants residing in the United Kingdom (Morocco);**

134.217 **Introduce a general statutory time limit on immigration detention and ensure such detention is not used in the case of vulnerable individuals or groups (Germany);**

134.218 **Incorporate a prohibition to indefinite detention of migrants in the 2016 Declaration on Immigration and search for alternatives to detention (Mexico);**

134.219 **Like other European countries, set a statutory time limit for immigration detention and ensure that children are not subjected to such detention (Bangladesh);**

134.220 **Revise its regulation and administrative practices in order to protect the human rights of female domestic migrant workers, in particular when their work permits are linked to the employer and they have been victims of human trafficking and work exploitation (Honduras);**

134.221 **Improve on the United Kingdom's Immigration Act 2016 dealing with refugees to be compatible with United Nations Human Rights Conventions, particularly the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Indonesia);**

134.222 **Reform its directive on family reunification to establish specifically family reunification for child asylum seekers relocated to the United Kingdom or who have been recognized as refugees (Honduras);**

134.223 **Take the necessary measures to guarantee the exercise of the right to family reunification of unaccompanied children recognized as refugees or resettled (Argentina);**

134.224 **Implement the recommendations of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Human Rights Committee regarding the detention of asylum seekers, including political asylum, and guarantee the full enjoyment of their right to freedom of movement and full and immediate access to independent medical personnel and legal representation (Ecuador);**

134.225 **Categorize statelessness as a protection status and provide stateless persons expedited and affordable access to British nationality (Hungary);**

134.226 **Urge the United Kingdom to take appropriate measures, including completion of the decolonization process of Mauritius and respect the legitimate right of resettlement of the Chagossians, aimed at bringing the United Kingdom into full compliance with its human rights obligations (Mauritius);**

134.227 **Apologize to the peoples and the countries it colonized or it attacked and provide financial compensation to the peoples of these countries (Syrian Arab Republic).**

135. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was headed by H.E. The Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald QC, Minister of State, Ministry of Justice, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Julian Braithwaite, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom, Geneva;
- Matthew Forman, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom, Geneva;
- Bob Last, Deputy Head Policy and Human Rights, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom, Geneva;
- Rob Linham OBE, Assistant Director, Human Rights and Intergovernmental Relations, Ministry of Justice;
- Emma Hindley, Private Secretary to Sir Oliver Heald, Ministry of Justice;
- Alison Stradling, Head of United Nations Treaties Team, Human Rights and Intergovernmental Relations, Ministry of Justice;
- Sergio Moreno, Senior Policy Adviser, United Nations Treaties Team, Human Rights and Intergovernmental Relations, Ministry of Justice;
- Naomi Sephton, Legal Adviser, Government Legal Department;
- Peter Neill, Policy Advisor, Equality and Human Rights Unit, The Executive Office, Northern Ireland Executive;
- Duncan Isles, Head of Human Rights, Scottish Government;
- Paul Dear, Head of Equality, Welsh Government.